

Endings: How to End (and Archive) your Digital Project

DHSI 2019, Victoria, BC

Instructors: Martin Holmes, Janelle Jenstad, and the Endings Team

Ontology of Digital Editions; or, How to Talk about Your Project

Your first exercise is to describe your project (proposed, in progress, finished, or in remediation).

NAME: What is the name of your project (if it has one)? _____

FOCUS: What is the focus of your project? An author, a work, a body of work, a genre, a language, a community, texts by people with certain characteristics/identities/politics, texts from a place or places, material objects (books, witnesses), types of documents, texts associated with a historical event/phenomenon?

SCOPE: Where are the edges of your project? Answering this question helps you “know your yes” so you can ignore the rest. Some possible parameters include: years (e.g., not before or not after certain dates), genre (e.g., Shakespeare’s plays but not his poetry), geography or region, material form (e.g., printed texts but not manuscript). Useful words:

- In [place]
- From
- To
- Except
- Excluding/including
- By [adjective] writers

RESEARCH QUESTION(S): What research questions does your project enable?

TYPE OF EDITION: Where does your project fit on these or other continuums?

Single text ↔ small collection ↔ large anthology

Single witness ↔ multiple witnesses consulted ↔ many witnesses transcribed/encoded

Unannotated ↔ editorial annotations only ↔ editorial + external annotations

Diplomatic ↔ Semi-diplomatic ↔ Modern ↔ Modern critical

Documentary ↔ Eclectic

DIGITAL OBJECTS: What are the components of your project? Check off all that apply.

- ☐ Digital surrogates
- ☐ Transcriptions
- ☐ Modern critical texts
- ☐ Critical paratexts
- ☐ Critical apparatus
- ☐ Prosopographies
- ☐ Bibliographies
- ☐ Gazetteers
- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Images
- ☐ Other: _____

USEFUL ADJECTIVES: Check off all that apply.

- ☐ Peer reviewed
- ☐ Open access
- ☐ Crowd-sourced
- ☐ In beta
- ☐ Prototype
- ☐ In progress
- ☐ Finished
- ☐ Grant funded
- ☐ Student-driven
- ☐ Pedagogical
- ☐ Scholarly

Now put it all together. If this formula works for your project, use it.

NAME OF PROJECT focuses on FOCUS in/from/to/except/excluding/including/by SCOPE.

To help answer RESEARCH QUESTION(S), NAME OF PROJECT offers TYPE OF EDITION,

including DIGITAL OBJECTS. [Add in the useful adjectives where appropriate.]